



**Cardiovascular Disease Pilot Research Grant
Request for Proposals 2019
Application deadline: June 24, 2019**

Duke Health is excited to announce a request for pilot projects proposals for high risk/high impact research in the area of the heart and disease. This RFP is designed to support truly innovative approaches related to the Translating Duke Health's focus on "Cardiovascular Robustness, Resilience, and Rejuvenation".

I. Purpose

The intent of this RFP is to support one to four pilot projects that help us better understand how to prevent the transition from cardiovascular health to disease and/or facilitate the return to health. We are especially interested in: (1) proposals that span multiple dimensions from basic to clinical to populations, (2) proposals that build new collaborations and/or new teams, and (3) proposals that might lead to extended productive and NIH-funded collaborations.

One of the awards will be in concert with Duke MEDx. For this award, there is an additional goal to facilitate the formation of a new collaboration between faculty in the Schools of Medicine and Engineering. Applicants should describe a new collaboration or a novel topic for an existing collaboration between regular rank faculty in Engineering and Medicine. This award is not meant to provide bridge funding or be supplementary funding for existing projects. Applications should also contain a description of the possible sources of subsequent support through grants, not-for-profit partnering, new company formation, licensing, or other channels.

The funding amount is up to \$100,000. Some faculty effort may be included (not to exceed 20% of the budget). If you are requesting faculty salary, justify the request in relation to departmental expectations and actual effort on the project.

The proposed research should be appropriate to the budget and must be accomplished within one year. Please note that for the MEDx/TDH specific award, the research team for the proposal must include co-principal investigators from the School of Medicine and from the Pratt School of Engineering. This is not a requirement for the other awards.

II. Eligibility

- Proposals must be submitted by Duke regular rank faculty and comply with the Duke University Policy on PI Status in the Duke Faculty Handbook. Students and trainees are eligible to apply, but must have a letter of support from a Duke regular rank faculty member. There must be at least one School of Medicine or School of Nursing faculty member on each proposal.
- The review committee is particularly interested in proposals that bring together new teams of investigators, or existing collaborators proposing a new research topic.
- More than one proposal may be submitted per faculty member acting as PI, but the faculty member is only eligible to receive one award as PI during a given funding cycle.

- For the MEDx/TDH joint award, research teams must include at least one investigator with an appointment in Duke School of Medicine and at least one investigator with an appointment in the Pratt School of Engineering.
- Teams whose proposal to a previous TDH Pilot Project RFA was not selected for funding may resubmit the proposal if it meets the requirements for this announcement. If applying for a resubmission, please include a cover letter with details about how the application has been improved.

III. Funding

Each award will consist of up to \$100,000. One of the grants is jointly supported by Translating Duke Health-Cardiovascular Disease and MEDx. The funds contributed by TDH are subject to General & Administrative (G&A) costs whereas the MEDx funds are not. The G&A cost will vary according to the home department of the School of Medicine PI. Prior to submitting your application, please contact John DeFore, john.defore@duke.edu, for information on how to appropriately plan your budget to incorporate G&A costs. Once award decisions have been made, your Grants & Contracts representative will need to contact MEDx to discuss the appropriate place to administratively hold the awarded funds.

Successful applicants will initially receive 80% of the total funds to begin the project. The remaining 20% of the total funds will be contingent on both a satisfactory progress report and submission of one external grant prior to the request for the final funds. The MEDx-TDH joint award will also require a mid-year progress report. Progress report details will be sent upon award notification. Additionally, TDH regularly provides reports to leadership about progress, so you may be asked for updates on achievements following completion of the award period.

IV. Proposal Requirements

Please include the following in your proposal:

1. Title page and contact information of co-PIs
2. Scientific Abstract of 150 words or less describing the project
3. Research Proposal (4-page limit, including tables and figures. Use 1-inch margins, single line spacing, and font no smaller than Arial 11. References do not count towards the page limit, but images do count.) The research proposal should address the following:
 - a. Explanation of unmet need and/or scientific significance, and how the proposed research is responsive to the Purpose (see Section I) of this RFP
 - b. Specific aims and objectives
 - c. Research plan/Approach to achieve specific aims and objectives
 - d. Future directions (please include likely sources for follow-on funding)
 - e. Proposal timeline
 - f. References (please note that references do not count towards the page limit and should be included at the end of the research proposal and assembled as a single PDF)
4. Biographical sketches for all key personnel, including current and pending sources of support. Please use the new (2018) *“NIH Biosketch Form”* as outlined at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-032.html>.
5. Budget with Budget Justification using [PHS 398](#) Form Pages 4 and 5 (Page 5 is for the Budget Justification section only and you may use more pages as needed. Combine all pages into a single PDF with no page limit). Translating Duke Health prefers not to pay faculty salaries and encourages departmental faculty support, but recognizes in some cases effort support might be required. If you are requesting faculty salary, please (1) ask for a reasonable percent effort, and (2) justify the request in relation to departmental expectations and actual effort on the project.

6. Proposal timeline detailing the project milestones and deliverables
7. Human and/or Animal Subjects: Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) approval **is not required prior to submission but will be required prior to funding**. Briefly describe any human and/or animal subject issues. (For example, if human subjects are involved, provide a description of their involvement and characteristics. Describe the sources of materials that will be obtained from human subjects as part of their study participation. Provide assurance that the project will be reviewed and approved by the Duke IRB and comply with HIPAA. If vertebrate animals are to be used, provide a description of the proposed use of the animals in the work. Projects involving animal subjects must be reviewed and approved by the Duke IACUC. There is no page limit to this section, but it should be as brief as possible.)

Awarded funds must be used to conduct the work proposed. TDH reserves the right to revoke funding in the event it is determined that funds are not being spent in accordance with the approved proposal without prior notification and approval, or if the PI receives duplicate funding for accomplishment of the same aims.

V. Selection Process and Review Criteria

1. Application Submission: The TDH Cardiovascular Disease Steering Committee will perform a detailed review of the applications. Faculty from the Pratt School of Engineering will also be part of the review process for all applications under consideration for the joint TDH/MEDx RFP. The Review Committee will consider the following criteria when reviewing and scoring applications:
 - Overall impact
 - Significance
 - Innovation
 - Investigators & Collaboration
 - Approach
 - Clarity about the relationship to the goals of the Initiative, namely “Cardiovascular Robustness, Resilience, and Rejuvenation”
2. Potential for future funding: The proposed pilot work should collect preliminary data or develop tools that will lead to a competitive proposal submitted to an external funding agency. It is helpful if the team can elaborate upon opportunities for future funding.

To apply, email your application in one combined PDF to translatingdukehealth@duke.edu. Please indicate in the subject line if you would like to be considered for the joint MEDx/TDH award, or only the TDH award.